**UNNES**
UNIVERSITAS NEGERI SEMARANG

**SOCIAL CLASS DOMINATION OVER PROLETARIAN GROUP**
**IN KEVIN KWAN'S *CRAZY RICH ASIANS:***
**REDEFINING SOCIAL CLASS HIERARCHY**
**AS FAMILIAL AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS**

A Final Project

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements

for the degree of Sarjana Sastra in English

by

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# APPROVAL

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## DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I Anindita Nikmatus Syva hereby declare that this final project entitled *Social Class Domination Over Proletarian Group in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians: Redefining Social Class Hierarchy As Familial and Cultural Traditions* my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at my university or other institutions. Information from the published and unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given in the references.

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## MOTTO AND DEDICATION

The best sword that you have is a limitless patience

For:

My Parents

My Sister

D'asmo Family

My Future Husband

My Friends

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First of all, I praise the Almighty Allah SWT for the blessing, guidance, opportunity, health, and mercy to enable me to complete this final project.

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# ABSTRACT

Syva, Anindita Nikmatus. 2019. ***Social Class Domination Over Proletarian Group in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians: Redefining Social Class Hierarchy As Familial and Cultural Traditions***. English Department. Languages and Arts Faculty. Universitas Negeri Semarang. Advisor: Henrikus Joko Yulianto, S.S., M.Hum., Ph.D.

This study analyzed social class domination over proletarian group based on social class hierarchy as a familial and cultural tradition in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. The aims of this study is to describe how social class domination is described in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* and explain how social class domination over proletarian group based on social class hierarchy as familial and cultural tradition. This study uses a qualitative method. The data in this study were taken from the object of the study, Kevin Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. The data were collected by reading, identifying, finding the data, interpreting the data, and reporting. In analyzing the data, the researcher used Marxism theory of Karl Heinrich Marx that to cases focusing on cultural aspects of dominant, residual, and emergent categories. The conclusions of this study were: first, social class in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, there are two types of Chinese social classes. Second, the reasons of Chinese bourgeois groups maintain their social class from proletarian groups to protect their lineage and family's reputation. Even though the Chinese bourgeois group is modern people and highly educated, they are still guided by familial and cultural traditions to preserve their reputation and wealth. Third, social class domination conducted by Chinese bourgeois group belongs to the category of dominant 'residual' in view of Marxist theory.

Keywords: Social Class, Domination, Marxist Theory, Crazy Rich Asians

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**CHAPTER I**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the research foundation including the background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research questions, purpose of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study. The keys to comprehending this research are provided in this chapter.

## 1.1 Background of The Study

A class society by Marxian definition is characterized by class conflict, tension, struggle, and possibly, eventual transformation into socialist society while a stratified society suggests unequal life-chances, but no inherent class conflict and potential transformation into a classless society. (Tan Ern Ser 2004:15) Everyone has their own criteria for occupying their social classes. These criteria are usually based on the presence of hereditary backgrounds or possessions to determine class society or classless one. Social class is not only about an economic system, but also includes ruling social classes and customs from generation to generation from our predecessors. A person who generally has a high economic position in class society usually has a domineering character. A domineering quality itself means a cultural process that seized as a cultural system.

> *"Social orientation is defined her in a broad sense to include the economic the political dimension. The rationale for focusing on age as an independent variable is to obtain a sense of the extent of inter-generational changes, while class and ethnicity provide some indication of the kind of tension and variation in outlook that may have their source in social inequality". (Tan Ern Ser 2004:30).*

Each country usually has various kinds of ethnicities with different social classes. Every ethnic group has rules in its respective community. Asia is one of the examples that has many ethnic groups that still use the social class system seen from the lineage.

Not only in Asia, Britain also has a very well-known system class, or we called 'Kingdom'. This class or royal system is also well-known for its aristocratic system. In British, there are five categories of class system or class society. First, 'lower class', this is a controversial term to describe the long-term unemployed, homeless, etc. Second, 'working class' or the basic low level of unskilled or semi-skilled workers. This includes occupations such as factory workers and laborers. Third, is 'middle class', the vast majority of British people, such as shop owners, white-collar professionals (literally those who wear a white collar like businessmen and office workers), teachers, journalists, nurses, and the list goes on. Fourth is 'upper class', a popular slang for this group is "toffs" which has both negative and positive connotations. A toff is someone that may think they are superior to others. But someone from a working class background may think a toff as someone that has no clue about real life and lacks practical skills. (greatbritishmag 2019).

Someone with a good job such as being a barrister can be considered upper-class but if their parents were working class they may be considered to have "new money". Next, those who come from families were often called "old money", which means that they have been rich for a long time. Fifth is 'Aristocrats', the Royal Family and those with titles, such as Lords, fall into this group. They are

often referred to as "blue blooded", a phrase that originated in France. It is original meaning was to describe people of wealth and status that did not have to work and rarely went out into the sun. Therefore, they had very pale skin and their veins were visible and appeared blue. (greatbritishmag 2019).

Similar to the class system, caste is a part of social stratification characterized by endogamy, hereditary transmission of a lifestyle which often includes an occupation, status in a hierarchy, customary social interaction, and exclusion. (www.wikipedia.com). The social caste system is generally one of the guidelines or benchmarks for life. The rule in social class is part of social class hierarchy as familial and cultural tradition which must be obeyed by the people in the social class itself. There are a lot of rules in the social class system, for example, rule in life as well as marriage have different provisions in each caste system.

Not only British social class system that still adheres to its rules, but some south East Asian Countries especially Singapore also still holds the rules or levels of the existing system in Singapore's social caste. Basically, Singapore is one of the countries that has been colonized by Great Britain. Singapore as one of the countries that have been colonized by an upper-class society is also associated with aristocracy Great Britain. Because of the impacts of colonization or not, Singapore still uses the same aristocratic system that was used by British itself. It is proven by the history of English colonization in Singapore that goes back to the early nineteenth century. Ever since the British statesman Sir Stamford Raffles claimed the island of Singapore for the East India Company in 1819, English has

had a place in Singapore. Before the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles, English speakers had already visited the island for international trading. But it was the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles that was responsible for the formal connection between English and Britain, which is responsible for the place the English language has in today's Singaporean society. Singapore became an independent Republic in 1965, and ever since the use of English has increased further. Since 1987 all Singaporean children have used English as the main language in school (Gupta, 1994). Nowadays, English is the language of instruction in all schools with one of the other official languages, Chinese, Tamil or Malay, being followed through as the second school language. (Eef Explores 2017).

According to the British colonized, Chinese people in Singapore also have levels of social class system. There are five social classes or class systems in Singapore. First is the upper class, as predominantly European and Chinese, with most of its members of business and professional men, bankers and financiers. Second is the upper-middle class; this group consists of the bulk of Singapore's professional men as well as many university teachers, upper civil levels of power servants, executives and managers. Third is the middle class; at this level, the district discipline exerted over government is the most hated relevance, particularly amongst teachers. Fourth is the lower-middle class. In general, the lower-middle class is a politically conservative group. It cannot afford the luxury of liberalism or the stigma of socialism. Fifth is the working class; it is the largest socio-economic grouping in Singapore which we can broadly define as the

working class; it embraces about 75% of the total population. (Salient Victoria University Students Newspaper, 1975:9).

From the data of social class in Singapore in which the upper class is dominated by Europeans and Chinese, we can conclude that the bourgeois in Singapore are Chinese and European. However, after reading the novel the researcher concludes that this final project focus on Chinese society that portrays in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. Because the author of the novel is also Chinese and he tried to criticize his own society. Basically, Chinese social class was famous for its aristocracy and obedience to rule a Chinese tradition. For example, in China, it is not only about class system but also rules about marriage. In China, there are some rules when Chinese marriage rule between a foreign Chinese person was forbidden. A woman from the Chinese-foreign clan and a mainland Chinese one who is married to a Chinese man was a recent phenomenon. From the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1949 to the early 1990s, Chinese-foreign marriages were seen as being outside the norm. While data from the PRC's Ministry of Civil Affairs indicates that the number of couples who register for a Chinese-foreign marriage in mainland China was almost ten times greater in 2010 than in 1979. The figures for registered Chinese-foreign marriages are still relatively small compared to those registered in a domestic marriage. (Elaine Jeffreys and Wang Pan, 2013)

The data also suggests that most Chinese-foreign marriages are intra-national rather than international in character. An article published by Elaine Jeffreys and Wang Pan, "Chinese-Foreign Marriage in Mainland China", at the

University Nottingham's China Policy Institute Blog notes that "the most common type of Chinese-foreign marriage registered in mainland China until the late 2000s was between a mainland Chinese woman and a man from Hong Kong, Macao or Taiwan." The article also reveals that these types of marriages are more common in Chinese women than those in men. The article states: "Over 8,000 women registered such a marriage in 1979. That figure rose to nearly 68,000 women in 2001 and declined to below 40,000 in 2010, less than that number in the mid-1990s. The proportion of men from mainland China registering a marriage with a foreign bride in mainland China is low. There were 250 men in 1979, rising to a peak of around 20,000 men in 2005, and declining to less than 12,000 in 2010". (Elaine Jeffreys and Wang Pan 2013).

These data confirm that everyone who still uses the rules of a Chinese cultural tradition, and other ethnicities, they are indoctrinated by all rules and do not have a free will to argue or determine every choice in their lives because of social class. However, the author of the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* Kevin Kwan tried to critique his Chinese society. From the data above, we know that Singapore is one of the countries that has been colonized by Great Britain. The author also had studied at Oxford University in London. The researcher has found another literary work with the same phenomenon it is a British novel entitled '*Pride and Prejudice*' (1813) by Jane Austen.

Pride and Prejudice is a romantic novel. Pride and Prejudice tells about the emotional development of the protagonist Elizabeth Bennet, who learns the error of making hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between the

superficial and the essential. The comedy of the writing lies in the depiction of manners, education, marriage and money during the Regency era in Britain. While *Crazy Rich Asians* is a romantic novel depicting a Chinese family adores wealth, culture, and traditions; it attaches importance to social class, social background, and strongly opposes someone under his social class to enter and become part of a rich Chinese family.

This final project is concerned about Chinese bourgeois families who maintain their social class domination over Chinese proletarian families based on Chinese social class hierarchy as familial and cultural traditions that occur in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. Social class hierarchy here means the rule of bourgeois group or family to protect their social class from proletariat group or family. The researcher was attracted to discuss Kevin Kwan's novel to portray a pivotal topic in this final project. Kwan wrote it to criticize his Chinese social caste or social class system. And after reading Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, the researcher concludes that Kwan shows how his families tried to maintain their Chinese social class domination. It is interesting because we know that the author is Chinese but he criticizes the ethnic or rules of his Chinese society. He disagrees with the rule of his family and tried to fight it.

**1.2 Reasons for Choosing The Topic**

The topic of this research is a social class domination or the domineering of bourgeois group analysis of the characters of the novel. This topic was chosen because the social class of the characters in the novel is based on familial and cultural traditions, which last from one to another generation. The analysis is

focused on the domination of the bourgeois family in characters that are shown in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* that maintain the bourgeois and rebel the proletarian. The behavior of the bourgeois characters in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* shows the impact of social class system that already happened in Chinese Caste System in the novel.

**1.3 Research Questions**

In this final project there are three questions of the problem that reveal to the topic:

1) What social class does Kevin Kwan portray as two conflicting parties in his novel, *Crazy Rich Asians*?

2) Why does the bourgeois group maintain their social class based on familial and cultural traditions in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*?

3) How does the bourgeois group in the novel maintain their social class domination over proletarian group in view of Marxist theory?

**1.4    Purpose of The Study**

Based on the research questions the researcher finds three purposes of the study:

1) To identify what social class Kevin Kwan's as two conflicting parties in his *Crazy Rich Asians*.

2) To analyze why the bourgeois group maintains its social class based on familial and cultural traditions in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*.

3) To discuss how the bourgeois group in the novel maintains their social class domination over proletarian group in view of Marxist's theory.

**1.5    Significance of the Study**

By doing this final project, the researcher hopes that this final project can be useful for other readers and researchers both theoretically and practically. There are three objectives of the research related to the topic: First, theoretically this research is expected to strengthen one's understanding of the Social Class Domination Over Proletarian Group in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* that happened in the novel by highlighting the Social Class Hierarchy of the characters especially in Chinese familial and cultural traditions.

Second, this research emphasizes the importance of moral teaching through various characters in the hierarchy and dominance of social classes. moral teaching that can be learned through the dominance of social classes in Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians is to respect cultural and family traditions that have existed for generations.

Third, practically this study is expected to increase the readers' knowledge in responding to the phenomenon of social class domination especially in Chinese one. It is expected that this research shares some information with other researchers to carry out further studies on a similar topic.

**1.6  Outline of The Study**

The report of chapter I, II, III, IV, and V will be presented in the following structure:

Chapter I is an introduction consisting of five points. First, it is the background of the study related to the social class in Chinese society, historical context about Chinese system, Singaporean Chinese social class, and historical

context about Singaporean Chinese social class. Second is the reason for choosing the topic. Third is research problems or research questions. Fourth, is the significance of the study. Fifth is the objectives of the study, and the last one is outline of the study.

Chapter II presents a review of related literature, which consists of three points. First, review of previous studies which contain articles that are related to the topic. Second, is review of related literature, which contains the theories or definitions from some critics and books that are relevant to the topic. Three is theoretical framework, which contains the diagram of theory that is related to the focus of analysis.

Chapter III presents methods of investigation which consist of six points: research design, object of the study, roles of researcher, procedure of collecting the data, and procedure of analyzing data.

Chapter IV presents the analysis and discussion of the problems based on the data in the novel and referring to Marxist theory of domination social class.

Chapter V presents the conclusion and suggestion of the study related to chapter IV or the result of the discussion or analysis.

# CHAPTER II

# REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

In this chapter, the researcher presents the review of related literature. In the review of related literature, the researcher provides a summary of several related previous literature. In the theoretical review, the researcher discusses some relevant theories and approaches used to support this analysis.

## 2.1    Review of the Previous Studies

In this part, there are several journals or articles that are relevant to the issue and to the novel that is used by the researcher in conducting this research, The first is an article from Galant Nanta Adhitya entitled *The Revelation of Authorial Ideology Through The Class Structure and Class Conflict Represented In Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians* (2015) this article aims to investigate the authorial ideology revealed in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* through the class structure and aspect of class conflict. To achieve the answers to the research objectives, the researcher employed Terry Eagleton's *Marxist Literary Theory* on Authorial Ideology (AuI). This research applied the descriptive qualitative method by using content analysis technique. The main source of this research is a novel entitled *Crazy Rich Asians* by Kevin Kwan, published in 2013 by Allen & Unwind. The data were some expressions used to convey the class structure and class conflict reflected in the novel in order to reveal the authorial ideology.

The researcher acted as a primary instrument, whilst the data sheets functioned as secondary instruments. The data were analyzed through six steps:

identifying and organizing the data, reading and re-reading the data, categorizing the data, sorting the data into a category based on the analytical construct, correlating the data with the theory to analyze research problems to interpret the result. The validity of the data in Adhitya's paper was obtained by conducting triangulation with *intra-rater* method and *peer debriefing* technique. After careful analysis, the researcher is able to answer the research objectives. The findings are related to the class structure and class conflict reflected in the novel. There are two class structures, consisting of (1) the Youngs and Chus, and (2) the Leongs and Teos, in which the Youngs and Leongs represent the bourgeoisie, whereas the Chus and Teos act as the proletariats. Involving each of the class structures there are intra-class conflicts from the side of the bourgeoisie. Both class conflicts are triggered by differences in ideological perspective.

The outcome of these conflicts shows the socioeconomic improvement of the proletariat characters. It can be concluded that Kwan exalts the bourgeoisie, which indicates his Authorial Ideology (AuI) of capitalism. There are two conclusions from this paper, their socioeconomic differences drive and the wealth gap between these two families affects.

Similar to Galant Nanta Adhitya's paper, the second article that uses similar novel of Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* is Desi Eka Putri, Rita Sutjiati Djohan, Endang Purwaningsih's article entitled *A Study of Code Mixing in English Novel entitled "Crazy Rich Asians" by Kevin Kwan* (2016). This article tells about the switching and the mixing code that now become a usual phenomenon in this globalization era. Code mixing can occur when a person understands other

languages as well. The aims of the research are to find out the types of code-mixing that the author frequently uses in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, to find out the parts of the novel which frequently reveal code-mixing, and also to find out the reasons that make them do the code-mixing within a sentence in the novel. The writers use a qualitative research method in analyzing and interpreting the data. The population in this research is part one, part two, and part three of the novel.

In addition, the sampling is the researcher's use of the multi-stage cluster sampling in which the researchers will choose the data randomly according to the types of code-mixing. The result of the research shows 20% of alternation, 76% of insertion, and 4% of congruent lexicalization. Therefore, the most dominant type of code-mixing in the novel is insertion. The next is the percentage of the part of the novel in using code-mixing are 55% for part one, 41% for part two, and 4% for part three. Thus, the part of the novel that mostly contains code-mixing is part one. This also makes the point for the reason in using code-mixing. There are some reasons for using code-mixing in the English novel entitled *Crazy Rich Asians* they are to express the attitude, messages, situations, and emotions in order to make the story more expressive and be an original story. Another one is for talking about a particular topic and also expressing a group identity. From the result of the analysis, the researcher found that there are 46 sentences that contain the code-mixing. There are three types of code-mixing; namely alternation, insertion, and congruent lexicalization.

Not only the papers from Galant, Desi, Rita and Endang the paper by Dwi Rohmawati also uses Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, entitled *Family Conflict Reflected in Crazy Rich Asians* (2018). This article also has a similar purpose to describe an analysis of family in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*. The article is based on the sociological approach. There are two data sources that the researcher uses namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data is *Crazy Rich Asians* novel written by Kevin Kwan 2013. The secondary data are data resources that support this research such as those of literary books, websites, dictionary, journals, and some articles related to the novel. This research is qualitative research focusing on content analysis. Data analysis was conducted by grouping data to identify results and conclusions. The result of this study shows the conflict between the five major characters in the story. Therefore, this paper discusses a different topic from my research.

The next article is by Muhammad Tomy Mahfudz. This article uses a similar issue about social class but different objects of analysis, this paper entitled *Class Struggle As Seen As in Upside Down Movie* (2017). It tells about film as a literary text in an audio-visual form. In this study, the researcher chooses *Upside Down* movie to be the subject of his study. This film tells about two worlds that have a very significant difference: that is U Top World which contains the rich, while Down Below contains the poor. Both worlds are only connected through one big company called Transworld. The differences between the two worlds, cause a gap in social status or social class. This study aims to discover how bourgeois and proletariat are depicted in this film and how the class struggle is

done. This paper uses Marxist theory as the main theory and Film theory as a supporting theory. After analyzing all the data gathered, it can be concluded that because of a restriction and differentiation between the two worlds, the parties of the proletariat will do the class struggle for equality. The proletariat here is not only the people who come from Down Below, because all people either coming from Up Top or Down Below, examines the topic remain to be classified as the proletariat if they still work at Transworld.

Similar to Muhammad Tomy's article that discusses the issue of Social Class, another paper by Chaesary Rekinagara, entitled *Class Struggle and Conflict As Seen Through Characters in Veronica Roth's Divergent* (2015). In this case, the researcher chose Veronica Roth's Divergent as the case study of this research. It is a dystopian novel that has an ardent Marxist belief to depict the core conflict in the novel. This novel tells about factions or classes in dystopian Chicago in which individuals are categorized into different factions based on traits personality. This novel is worth to study since it elevates the struggle of base people to take a stand against the superstructure as a result of capitalist society. Class struggle and conflict between classes can be felt by reading this novel. Each character in this novel represents the class where they live. It can be seen how they deal with these problems which cannot be separated from their characteristics from each faction. Class struggle and conflict are powerful to be analyzed since it happens inevitably in a capitalist society since the base and superstructure have contrasting interests. Similarly, this article addresses a different topic of that of my topic.

A Next article is by Patricia Park. She also uses the same novel of Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians.* This article is entitled *Crazy Rich Asians Presents A Whole New Wave of Stereotypes* (2013). We've left the familiar waters of Kung Fu fighting for a whole new wave of stereotypes. Kwan delves into the world of the Singaporean "overseas" Chinese – an elite breed sporting Huntsman blazers and matching Queen's English accents, who shoot off to island getaways in their private jets. *Crazy Rich Asians* follow the story of Singapore golden boy Nick, who brings home his waiver than thou "ABC" – American-born Chinese – girlfriend, Rachel, to the dismay of the whole clan; comedic culture clashes ensue. Kwan presents a belly-aching feast of stereotypes, rivaling only the sumptuous fusion fare heaped throughout the novel's never-ending banquets.

The next article is by Frans J. Schryer, entitled *Ethnicity and Class Conflict in Rular Mexico* (1990). This paper tells about the northern part of the state of Hidalgo, called the Huasteca of Hidalgo (or Huasteca Hidalguense), as one of the most politically unstable and turmoil-ridden parts of rural Mexico. This geographical region is also ethnically diverse; about half of the approximately 250,000 people who live in the valleys and mountains of the sixteen municipios of the Huasteca Hidalguense and its immediate fringe speak Nahuatl (the same language spoken by the Aztecs) and can be distinguished as an ethnic minority, distinct from the Spanish speaking Mestizos who also inhabit this region. The complex relationship between class and ethnicity presents an intellectual challenge to scholars, especially those using a Marxist framework of analysis. Some researchers simply avoid this challenge by disregarding the phenomenon of

ethnicity altogether. Others only look at ethnicity as a negative factor, which hinders or retards the development of class consciousness necessary for class struggles. Still others (see Nnoli 1977) equate ethnicity and class whenever ethnic groups are overrepresented or underrepresented in different economic classes.

The next article is by Hsin-Yun Ou, entitled *The Chinese Stereotyical Signification in "Ah Sin"* (2013). This paper also tells about a similar issue with that of the researcher, which was social class in Chinese class system. This paper examines a racial ideology exemplified in Ah Sin as it played out in multiple venues, particularly the Gilded Age economy and the conventions of yellowface performance. Highlighting the ambivalence of the Chinese title character, the play marks an emphatic step toward disrupting what Homi Bhabha defines as the "fixity" of racialized stereotypes. (Hsin-Yun Ou, 2013)

The last article is by Michael J. Thompson (2019). This article also tells about a social hierarchy. This article entitled "Hierarchy, Social Pathology, and Failure of Recognition Theory" argues that the dynamics behind the generation of social pathologies in modern society also undermine the social-relational framework for recognition. It, therefore, claims that the theory of recognition is impotent in face of the kinds of normative power exerted by social hierarchies. The article begins by discussing particular forms of social pathology and their relation to hierarchical forms of social structure that are based on domination, control, and subordination and then shows how the internalization of the norms that shape and hold together hierarchical social formations causes pathologies within the self. As a result of these processes, the recognition aspects

of social action that the theory of recognition posits are unable to overcome and in fact reproduce and in many instances reinforce the pathologies themselves. (Michael J. Thompson, 2019)

Different from those articles, the researcher's topic is focused on Social class domination over proletarian groups based on social class hierarchy as familial and cultural traditions. In this topic, the researcher examines how the class distinction occurs in Chinese society in Kwan's novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. Class distinction here shows how Chinese bourgeois groups become dominated to Chinese proletarian groups based on their Chinese familial and cultural traditions.

## 2.2 Theoretical Review

This part would consist of theoretical background related to the topic of social class domination over proletarian group based on social class hierarchy as familial and cultural traditions. The subtitle would also include the theories applied this study.

### 2.2.1 Novel

The word 'novel' comes from an Italian word, Novella, which means a new staff that is small. The novel developed in England and America. The novel was originally developed in the region from other forms of narrative nonfiction, such as letters, biographies, and history. But with a shift in society and lapsing time, the novel is not only based on data nonfiction. The author of novel can change according to the desired imagination. Sumardjo (1998: 29) says that "novel is a story with a prose form in a lengthy size. This lengthiness means that the story

includes a complex plot, many characters, and various settings". A novel is a totality, a comprehensiveness that is artistic. As a totality, the novel has passage elements; most are related to one another in a close and mutual interdependence.

The second theory is elements of novel related with novel theory. There are several elements, which build the edifice of a novel. All of these elements are integral parts of any novel. Below are following of the elements of a novel:

The first element is the plot. Stanton (1965: 14) stated that a plot is a story that contains the sequence of events, but each incident is only connected in causes and effects, an event which causes or leads to the occurrence of other events. The plot can be described as the events shown in the story based on the relation of cause and effect (Kenny, 1966: 14).

Stanton (1965: 14) said that the plot is a story that contains a sequence of events but every event is connected by a causal relationship; one event causes or is caused by other events. A plot could be defined as the sequence of events in a story and arranged in sequential order. According to Forster, the plot includes events in the story that are based upon the causal relationship (1970: 93).

The second element is character, Kennedy (1983: 45) explains that a character is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story – although that simple definition may admit to a few exceptions. (In George Stewart's novel *Storm*, the protagonist is the wind; in Richard Adams's *Watership Down*, the central characters are rabbits).

Abrams (1971: 21) affirms that characters are the persons in a dramatic or narrative work endowed with moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed

in what they say-the dialogue-and what they do – the action. The alternative methods available by the author in characterizing the persons in a narrative are showing and telling. The characters are the people in a novel that play their role. We assess them on the basis of what the author tells us about them and on the basis of what they do and say. Another point to remember is that the characters are parts of a broader pattern. The author differentiates a view of people related to society through the presentation of every character.

The third element is setting, besides the character, there are other elements which play an important role in a novel; one of them is setting. The setting can be said as the background element because it is divided into three main elements, namely a place, time, and social.

Rene and Austin (1982: 131) are concerned with the places where the story takes place. Setting refers to the location of the story, the period of time, the daily lifestyle of the characters and the climate of the story. Actually, when the reader reads a novel, they receive a vision of a world that had been completed by the characters and the events in the novel. But of course, those things are not complete because the characters also need living space, place and time, like a human's living in the real world. On the other hand, a novel not only needs characters, stories, and plot but also setting.

The fourth element is point of view, the phrase 'point of view' is perhaps an unfortunate one since it applies equally to the intellectual orientation of a work (a Christian point of view, for example, or a Marxist point of view), to the emotional stance of the writer as it reflected in the tone of a work (a sardonic point of view,

for example), and to the angle from which a fictional work is narrated. But despite its ambiguity, the phrase; its third sense, has become fixed and attempts to supplant it with a more precise phrase such as "focus of narration" but have not yet been successful. (Philip Stevick, 1967:85)

The last element of the novel is theme, according to Stanton (1965: 20) and Kenny (1966: 88) theme is the meaning contained by a story. But since there are many meanings included and offered by the story (the novel), then the problem is a special meaning which can be expressed as theme. Barnet, Berman, and Bruto (1966: 20) point out that usually, a story is about something; it has meant a point-a theme.

Meanwhile, Kennedy (1983: 103) argues that the theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals. In literary fiction, the theme is not always obvious. A theme does not need to be a moral or s message; it may be what the happenings add up to, what the story is about.

Hartoko and Rahmanto (1986: 142) explain that the theme is the idea of a common base that sustains a literary work contained in the text semantic structure and related equations or the differences. It can be said that the theme is strained from the design of the relevant work that determines the presence of events, conflicts, and situations.

### 2.2.2 Literature

Literature is a form of human expression. But not everything expressed in words even when organized and written down is counted as literature. Those writings that are primarily informative technical, scholarly, journalistic would be

excluded from the rank of literature by most, though not all, critics. Certain forms of writing, however, are universally regarded as belonging to literature as an art. Individual attempts within these forms are said to succeed if they possess something called artistic merit and to fail if they do not. The nature of artistic merit is less easy to define than to recognize. The writer need not even pursue it to attain it. On the contrary, a scientific exposition might be of great literary value and a pedestrian poem of none at all. (Kenneth Rexroth, 1998)

### 2.2.3 Sociological

Sociological theory to literature, takes into account, the author's social origin and the socio-cultural background in which he is born and brought up it is an attempt to relate how the author with the social surroundings affect the author sensibility and go on in the  making of the literary creation by that author. The study of this background of the social surrounding naturally helps the reader to understand the literary creation great deal, as it places the book/the creation in a proper perspective. This approach is the oldest approach as old as the Homeric epics for man and society is something which has even bee present. But a systematic and deliberate efforts to relate the two has been rather late only after the development of Sociology as an independent social science. Because Sociology studied in detailed and systematically the relationship between the man and his social surroundings. Marx and Engels added a new dimension to sociological approach with their emphasis on means and methods of production and their impact on the society and ultimately on the individual sensibility. (Ambreen Safder Kharbe, 2009:206)

### *2.2.4 Sociology of Culture*

Analysis of the sociology of the novel has to include many factors, but the main is always directly about economic factors. Ideological reasons are ordinarily excluded. The insertion of economic determinations into cultural studies is, of course, the special contribution of Marxism, and there are times when its simple insertion is an evident advance. But in the end it can never be a simple insertion since what is really required, beyond the limiting formulas, is a restoration of the whole social material process, and specifically of cultural production as social and material. This is where analysis of institutions has to be extended to analysis of formations. The complex and variable sociology of those cultural formations which have no direct or exclusive or manifest institutional realization- literary and intellectual 'movements'. (Raymond Williams 1977 p;138).

### *2.2.5 Social and Society*

The next theory comes to the problem in this research, which is about the problem of Social and Society. Basically, our word "social" and "society" derives from Latin word 'socius' and 'societas'. For the Romans, a socius was a member of a trading partnership. A socius was a merchant cooperating with other merchants as a partner, fellow, or "associate". A partnership or 'association' between merchants was a societas, which is the origin of our modern English word 'company' or 'business firm', as well as our keyword society. The commercial meaning of *societas* is directly preserved in other modern European languages such as in the French and Italian societe and societa the German Gesellschaft. In this sense we can say that sociology and social theory are

concerned with relations of 'sociation' between 'members' or 'partners', including not only business partners but a great many other kinds and processes of 'sociation' and 'socialization' between individuals. (Austin Harrington, 2005:2).

### 2.2.6 Marxism

The next is about a theory related to the approach that the writer used in this research. The theory related to the approach is the definition of Marxism in Literary Approach. Marxism in Literary Approach was offered to humanity's social, political, economic, and cultural understanding of the nature of reality, society, and the individual. These similar ideas have become the basis of what we know today as socialism. Marx believes that such a clash of class conflict leads to a radical change in the economic base of society from a feudal system of power based on inherited wealth and status to a capitalist system based on the ownership of private property. In this work, they declare that the capitalist, or the bourgeoisie, had successfully enslaved the working class, or proletariat, through economic policies and production of goods. Marxist approach to a text deal with more than the conventional literary themes, matters of style, plot, or characterization, and the usual emphasis. Marxism must move beyond these literary elements to uncover the author's world and his world view, by lacing the text in its historical context and by analyzing the author's view of life. (Charless E. Bressler, 1998:210).

### 2.2.7 Hegemony

The next theory related to the topic is Hegemony Theory. The traditional definition of "hegemony" is a political rule or 'domination', especially in

relations between states. Marxism extended the definition of rule or domination over relations between social classes, and especially to definitions of a ruling class. 'Hegemony' then acquired a further significant sense in the work of Antonio Gramsci, carried out under great difficulties in a fascist prison between 1927 and 1935. Much is still uncertain in Gramsci's use of the concept, but his work is one of the major turning-points in Marxist cultural theory. (Raymond Williams, 1977:108).

Actually, Hegemony theory that explain before is related to social and cultural identification theory. The concept of tradition has been radically neglected in Marxist cultural thought. It is usually seen at best as a secondary factor, which may at most modify other and more decisive historical processes. This is not only because it is ordinarily diagnosed as superstructure, but also because 'tradition' has been commonly understood as a relatively inert, historicized segment of a social structure: tradition as the surviving past. But this version of tradition is weak at the very point where it is seen, in fact, as an actively shaping force. For tradition is in practice the most evident expression of the dominant and hegemonic pressures and limits. It is always more than an inert historicized segment; indeed it is the most powerful practical means of incorporation. What we have to see is not just 'a tradition' but a selective tradition: an intentionally selective version of a shaping past and a pre-shaped present, which is then powerfully operative in the process of social and cultural definition and identification. (Raymond Williams, 1977:115).

*2.2.8 Domination*

Related from the Hegemony theory that already explained before, 'domination' in cultural context is such errors are avoidable if, while retaining the ephocal hypothesis, we can find terms that recognize not only 'stages' and 'variations' but the internal dynamic relations of any actual process. We have certainly still to speak of the 'dominant' and the 'effective' and these senses of the hegemonic. But we find that we also have to speak, and indeed with further differentiation of each, of the 'residual' and the 'emergent', which in any real process, and at any moment in the process, are significant both in themselves and in what they reveal of the characteristics of the 'dominant'. (Raymond Williams 1977:122)

*2.2.9 Residual and Emergent*

The residual by definition has been effectively formed in the past, but it is still active in the cultural process, not only and often not at all as an element of the past, but as an effective element of the present. Thus certain experiences, meanings, and values cannot be expressed or substantially verified in terms of the dominant culture. While 'emergent' is a new meanings and values, new practices, new relationship and kinds of relationship are continually being created. (Raymond Williams, 1977:122)

## 2.3 Theoretical Framework

The framework of analysis is this study is based on reading literary books and sources that are related to the topic. Therefore, the researcher uses a theory that is relevant to this research in order to analyze the problem and reveal it.

Related with the research, the researcher uses some sources to make this research well-constructed by reading books on Marxism in Literature, previous studies about Marxist literary analysis, journals, and also the data from the internet.

The researcher presents the diagram of the theoretical framework in order to help the readers in understanding the theoretical framework of this research. The diagram is presented as follows
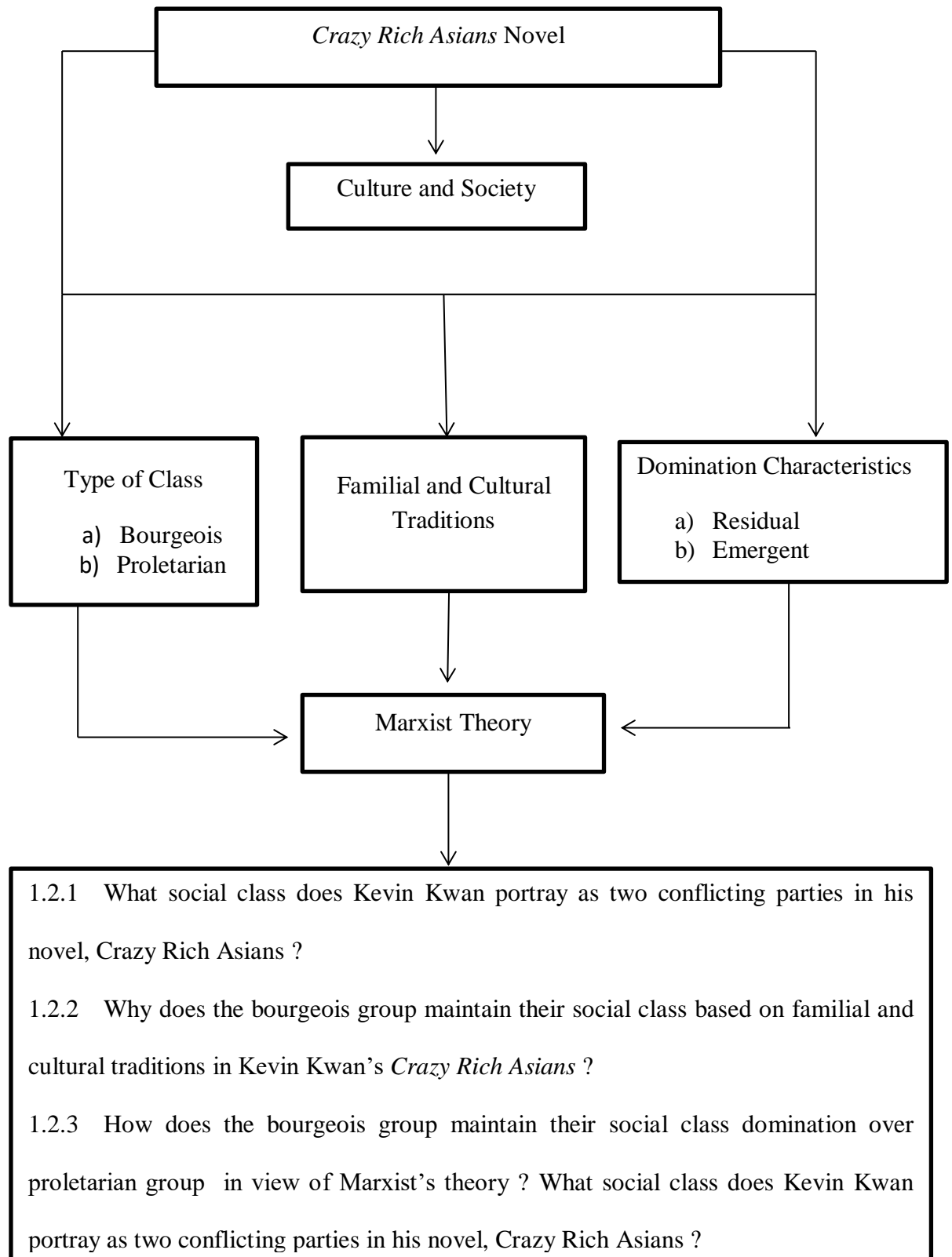
The mind mapping :

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                    ┌─────────────────────────────────────────┐
                    │        Crazy Rich Asians Novel          │
                    └─────────────────────────────────────────┘
                                      │
                                      ▼
                           ┌──────────────────────┐
                           │  Culture and Society │
                           └──────────────────────┘

┌──────────────────┐    ┌──────────────────────┐    ┌────────────────────────────┐
│  Type of Class   │    │ Familial and Cultural│    │  Domination Characteristics│
│                  │    │     Traditions       │    │                            │
│  a) Bourgeois    │    │                      │    │   a) Residual              │
│  b) Proletarian  │    │                      │    │   b) Emergent              │
└──────────────────┘    └──────────────────────┘    └────────────────────────────┘
                                      │
                                      ▼
                           ┌──────────────────────┐
                           │    Marxist Theory    │
                           └──────────────────────┘
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1.2.1   What social class does Kevin Kwan portray as two conflicting parties in his novel, Crazy Rich Asians ?

1.2.2   Why does the bourgeois group maintain their social class based on familial and cultural traditions in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* ?

1.2.3   How does the bourgeois group maintain their social class domination over proletarian group  in view of Marxist's theory ? What social class does Kevin Kwan portray as two conflicting parties in his novel, Crazy Rich Asians ?

Figure 2.3 Theoretical Framework

# CHAPTER V

# CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

## 5.1 Conclusion

According to the finding and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher gets conclusions from the research as follows:

Social class domination over proletarian group, redefining social class hierarchy as familial and cultural traditions as a social phenomenon in *Crazy Rich Asians*, can be seen from the attitude of Chinese bourgeois group or Overseas Chinese that maintain their social class domination based on their Chinese familial and cultural tradition. In this final project, there are three research questions and each question has the data and analysis the novel depicts. The researcher already found the data and make an analysis of the research questions. Below the conclusion of each research questions:

The first research question talks about social class that portrays as two conflicting parties in the novel. There are two social classes, namely Chinese bourgeois groups or Overseas Chinese and Chinese proletariat groups or Mainland Chinese. Overseas Chinese is a respectable group it can be seen from the lineage and the treasure. The Overseas Chinese are Chinese (old money) people who have been rich from generation to generation and migrated to Singapore. While Mainland Chinese are Chinese people who work as farmers, factory employees,

and people who have poor backgrounds and have a lineage that is not well-known or does not come from respectable family.

The second research question talks about the reason of the bourgeois group to maintain their social class based on familial and cultural traditions. Chinese bourgeois groups or Overseas Chinese maintain their social class because Chinese people think that the meaning and values of a family is very important. Meaning and values in the Chinese family live on are included in the Chinese cultural tradition. Overseas Chinese maintain their social class from Mainland Chinese because overseas Chinese people believe that mainland Chinese only want their possessions (Overseas Chinese). If Mainland Chinese become part of Overseas Chinese groups or families, it will deteriorate the reputation of overseas Chinese groups. The main reason Overseas Chinese rejected Mainland Chinese is the different lineages, in which overseas Chinese lineages have been famous since World War such as Sir James Young. Overseas Chinese have proven to be more traditional than mainland Chinese in terms of family and cultural rules that are still used in the modern era.

The third research question talks about how the bourgeois group maintains their social class domination over proletarian group in view of Marxist's theory. The strong familial and cultural traditions of the Chinese bourgeois groups or Overseas Chinese, make them do anything to suppress the Chinese proletarian groups. As discussed in the second research question, the Chinese bourgeois group maintains its social class to safeguard the family's reputation and its treasure based on Chinese familial and cultural traditions. So Chinese bourgeois

groups treat Chinese proletarian groups very discriminatively to keep the Chinese proletarian groups away.

Viewed from Marxist theory, in maintaining its social class domination conducted by Chinese bourgeois groups, they are included in the 'residual' domination. Categorized as 'residual' domination because the residual, by definition, has been effectively formed in the past, but it is still active in the cultural process or still active in nowadays, not only and often not at all as an element of the past, but as an effective element of the present. The meant elements that familial and cultural traditions incorporate which are the main values in Chinese bourgeois groups. Therefore, the researcher concludes that the attitude of domination that the Chinese bourgeois groups have done categorized 'residual' domination.

## 5.2 Suggestion

According to the conclusions that are presented above, the researcher would like to present several suggestions concerning the topic and future researchers related to the topic as follows:

First of all, published in the modern era 2013, Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* is recommended for for researchers, readers, and next researchers. For researchers, this novel is an interesting novel that presents a clear depiction of the society during the modern era by illustrating it through the characters and their conflict in the story. Although it is a modern novel, Kwan wrote this novel with very firm cultural content (Chinese). For the readers, this novel will make the reader more interested in the story so that the readers not only gets a story about

family conflict and a love affair but the reader also learns about Chinese culture mixed with the conflicts in the novel. This is also supported by the theory that researcher used in this research which is interesting and it can be a reference for readers.

For next researchers, the theory that is used in this research is interesting to study. This theory is quite a simple comprehension of the interaction of people in society. The researcher uses the theory in accordance with the topics raised, it is to facilitate other researchers in studying and reading this final project. This research is expected to be a valuable reference for any further researcher who is interested in the same topic, theory, and approach.

Last but not least, this research is expected to be able to contribute and be a useful reference source for other students who want to use the same theory. This research also expected to increase research collections available at the library of English Department, Universitas Negeri Semarang.

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